

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1 1. (Currently amended) A method for ~~tracking the use of resources on a~~
2 ~~website~~ determining whether a client accepts visitor identifiers, comprising the
3 steps of:
- 4 a.) receiving a request for a resource, the request originating at a
5 client;
- 6 b.) determining whether the request for the resource includes a visi-
7 tor identifier;
- 8 c.) responsive to the request not including the visitor identifier:
9 assigning a new visitor identifier; ~~and~~
10 sending a redirection request with the new visitor identifier
11 to the client;
- 12 responsive to the client storing the new visitor identifier, de-
13 termining that the client accepts visitor identifiers;
14 and
15 responsive to the client not storing the new visitor identifier,
16 determining that the client does not accept visitor
17 identifiers.

18 d.) categorizing data sent with the request for the resource; and

19 e.) repeating steps a-d until reaching a session expiration.

1 2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the visitor iden-
2 tifier comprises a cookie.

1 3. (Currently amended) A method for ~~tracking the use of resources on a~~
2 website determining whether a requestor accepts visitor identifiers, comprising
3 the steps of:

4 a.) receiving a request for a resource from a requestor, the requestor
5 having an address;

6 b.) determining whether the request includes a visitor identifier;

7 c.) responsive to the request including a visitor identifier, obtaining
8 data associated with the visitor identifier and determining
9 that the requestor accepts visitor identifiers;

10 d.) responsive to the request not including a visitor identifier:

11 b d.1) determining whether the request for the resource in-
12 cluded includes an ~~do not repeat~~ indicator that step
13 d.3) has been performed;

14 e d.2) responsive to the request including the ~~do not repeat~~
15 indicator that step d.3) has been performed, assigning
16 a visitor identifier from the requestor's address and

determining that the requestor does not accept visitor
identifiers;

d.3) responsive to the request not including the indicator

that step d.3) has been performed:

assigning a new visitor identifier;

sending to the requestor a redirection request includ-

ing the new visitor identifier and an indicator

that step d.3) has been performed; and

repeating steps a-d.

~~d.) categorizing data received with the request for the resource; and~~

~~e.) repeating steps a-d until reaching a session expiration.~~

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the visitor identifier comprises a cookie.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the request for the resource includes a visitor identifier comprises:

comparing the visitor identifier with a range of valid visitor identifiers; and,

in response to the visitor identifier being outside the range of valid visitor identifiers, indicating that the request did not include the visitor identifier.

1 6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the visitor iden-
2 tifier comprises a cookie.

1 7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising
2 ~~wherein step d.) comprises:~~
3 d.) categorizing the data sent with the request for the resource by at
4 least one selected from the group consisting of a visitor iden-
5 tifier, a page identifier, and a time stamp.

1 8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the visitor iden-
2 tifier comprises a cookie.

1 9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 or claim 2, further compris-
2 ing wherein step e.) comprises:
3 repeating steps a-d for a predetermined amount of time.

1 10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 or claim 2, further com-
2 prising wherein step e.) comprises:
3 repeating steps a-d until receiving a particular request for a re-
4 source.

1 11. (Currently amended) A data collection server for ~~tracking the use of~~
2 ~~resources on a website~~ determining whether a requestor accepts visitor identifi-
3 ers, comprising:

4 a communication interface for receiving a request for a resource
5 from a requestor and sending a visitor identifier;

6 a cookie handler coupled to the communications interface for per-
7 forming the steps of:

8 ~~testing the request for the resource;~~

9 a) determining whether the request includes an indicator

10 that step c) has been performed ~~checking whether a~~
11 ~~do not repeat indicator is present in the request for~~
12 ~~the resource;~~

13 b) responsive to the request including the indicator that step

14 c) has been performed, assigning a visitor identifier;

15 and

16 c) responsive to the request not including the indicator that

17 step c) has been performed;

18 assigning a new visitor identifier;

19 causing the communication interface to send to the

20 requestor a redirection request including the

21 new visitor identifier and an indicator that step
22 c) has been performed; and
23 ~~assigning the visitor identifier;~~
24 a session controller coupled to the cookie handler for signaling a
25 session end for a particular visitor identifier; and
26 a repository for;
27 storing data sent with the request for the resource;
28 responsive to the request including a visitor identifier, stor-
29 ing data associated with the visitor identifier and de-
30 termining that the requestor accepts visitor identifi-
31 ers; and
32 responsive to the request including the indicator that step c)
33 has been performed, determining that the requestor
34 does not accept visitor identifiers.

1 12. (Previously presented) The data collection server of claim 11, wherein
2 the visitor identifier comprises a cookie.

1 13. (Cancelled).

1 14. (Currently amended) A method for ~~tracking the use of resources on a~~
2 ~~website determining whether a client accepts visitor identifiers~~, comprising the
3 steps of:

4 sending, from a client, a first request for a resource to a data collec-
5 tion server;

6 in response to the first request not including a visitor identifier:

7 receiving a new visitor identifier and a redirection request
8 from the data collection server;

9 responsive to the client storing the new visitor identifier,

10 sending ~~the~~ a second request for a resource with the new
11 visitor identifier to the data collection server; and

12 responsive to the client not storing the new visitor identifier,

13 sending a second request for a resource without the new
14 visitor identifier to the data collection server; and,

15 receiving the requested resource.

1 15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the visitor
2 identifier comprises a cookie.

1 16. (Currently amended) A method for ~~tracking the use of resources on a~~
2 ~~website determining whether a client accepts visitor identifiers~~, comprising the
3 steps of:

4 sending, ~~from a client~~, a first request for a resource to a data collec-
5 tion server;

6 in response to the first request not including a visitor identifier:

7 a) receiving a new visitor identifier ~~do not repeat indicator~~
8 and a redirection request from the data collection server, the
9 redirection request including an indicator that step c) has
10 been performed;

11 b) responsive to the client storing the new visitor identifier,
12 sending ~~the a second~~ request for a resource with the new
13 visitor identifier ~~do not repeat indicator~~ to the data collection
14 server, the second request including an indicator that step c)
15 has been performed; and;

16 c) responsive to the client not storing the new visitor identi-
17 fier, sending a second request for a resource without the new visi-
18 tor identifier to the data collection server, the second request in-
19 cluding an indicator that step c) has been performed; and
20 receiving the requested resource.

1 17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the visitor
2 identifier comprises a cookie.

1 18. (Currently amended) A computer program product having computer
2 readable code embodied thereon, said computer readable code for programming
3 one or more computers to perform a method for ~~tracking the use of resources on~~
4 ~~a website~~ determining whether a client accepts visitor identifiers, comprising the
5 steps of:

6 a.) receiving a request for a resource, the request originating at a
7 client;

8 b.) determining whether the request for the resource includes a visi-
9 tor identifier;

10 c.) responsive to the request not including the visitor identifier:

11 assigning a new visitor identifier; ~~and~~

12 sending a redirection request with the new visitor identifier

13 to the client;

14 responsive to the client storing the new visitor identifier, de-

15 termining that the client accepts visitor identifiers;

16 and

responsive to the client not storing the new visitor identifier,
determining that the client does not accept visitor
identifiers.

d.) categorizing data sent with the request for the resource; and
e.) repeating steps a-d until reaching a session expiration.

19. (Currently amended) A computer program product having computer readable code embodied thereon, said computer readable code for programming one or more computers to perform a method for ~~tracking the use of resources on a website~~ determining whether a requestor accepts visitor identifiers, comprising the steps of:

a.) receiving a request for a resource from a requestor, the requestor having an address;

b.) determining whether the request includes a visitor identifier;

c.) responsive to the request including a visitor identifier, obtaining
data associated with the visitor identifier and determining
that the requestor accepts visitor identifiers;

d.) responsive to the request not including a visitor identifier:

b d.1) determining whether the request for the resource in-
cluded includes an do not repeat indicator that step
d.3) has been performed;

16 e d.2) responsive to the request including the ~~do not repeat~~
17 indicator that step d.3) has been performed, assigning
18 a visitor identifier from the requestor's address and
19 determining that the requestor does not accept visitor
20 identifiers;

21 d.3) responsive to the request not including the indicator
22 that step d.3) has been performed;
23 assigning a new visitor identifier;
24 sending to the requestor a redirection request includ-
25 ing the new visitor identifier and an indicator
26 that step d.3) has been performed; and
27 repeating steps a-d.

28 ~~d.) categorizing data received with the request for the resource; and~~

29 ~~e.) repeating steps a-d until reaching a session expiration.~~

1 20. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 19,
2 wherein the visitor identifier comprises a cookie.

1 21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the received re-
2 quest identifies a resource, and the redirection request identifies the ~~same~~ re-
3 source identified by the received request.

1 22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the received re-
2 quest identifies an address, and the redirection request identifies the ~~same~~ ad-
3 dress identified by the received request.

1 23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein sending a redi-
2 rection request comprises sending a redirection request including an ~~and do not re-~~
3 peat indicator that step c) has been performed.

1 24. (Cancelled).

1 25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 24 ~~3~~, wherein the received
2 request identifies a resource, and the redirection request identifies the ~~same~~ re-
3 source identified by the received request.

1 26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 24 ~~3~~, wherein the received
2 request identifies an address, and the redirection request identifies the ~~same~~ ad-
3 dress identified by the received request.

1 27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein receiving a re-
2 direction request comprises receiving a redirection request including an ~~and do not~~
3 repeat indicator that a first request has been received, and wherein sending the
4 second request for a resource ~~with the new visitor identifier~~ comprises sending

5 the request for a resource with the new visitor identifier including includes the
6 ~~do not repeat~~ indicator that a first request has been received.

1 28. (Cancelled).

1 29. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the first ~~sent~~
2 requests for the resource identifies a resource, and the second ~~sent~~ request identi-
3 fies the ~~same~~ resource identified by the first request.

1 30. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 repeating steps a-c until reaching a session expiration.

1 31. (New) The method of claim 2, further comprising:
2 repeating steps a-c until reaching a session expiration.